Borough of Lowestoft

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

AND

Port Medical Officer

for the Year

1970

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of
Lowestoft.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report of the health of the Borough for the year 1970, which is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The mid-year population estimate provided by the Registrar-General has increased by 170 over the 1969 figure to 50,900. This upward trend is surprisingly low compared with the 880 increase in population between 1968 and 1969. The number of live and stillbirths totalled 768 compared with 796 in 1969, and the adjusted rate per 1,000 population was 0·5 less than the rate for England and Wales. The number of stillbirths was 13 (8 in 1969) and the number of infant deaths under one year totalled 13 (the same as in 1969), both these figures were again below the rate for England and Wales.

581 notifications of infectious diseases were recorded in 1970, 554 of which were in respect of Measles. This followed the usual pattern of Measles outbreaks in alternate years. The recently introduced immunisation against Measles was ineffective during the year due to the withdrawal by the Department of Health of a strain of vaccine which had caused adverse reaction. Unfortunately, the East Suffolk County Council had been issued with large quantities of this Measles vaccine and they were unable to obtain further supplies due to the ensuing shortage of the vaccine. The vaccine is now more freely available and it will be interesting to see if the number of cases decline in future years.

I am grateful to the General Manager of the East Anglian Water Company, the Borough Surveyor, and the Borough Treasurer, who have contributed reports and statistics concerning water supply, sewerage and public cleansing, meteorology and other data. The position on fluoridation of water is unchanged from last year.

I am grateful to Mr. Cormack, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his detailed report on all aspects of environmental work in the department.

I express my thanks to you Mr. Mayor, and to members of the Council for the support given to me and to staff of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,
ARTHUR C. GEE,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CLAPHAM ROAD,
LOWESTOFT.
June, 1971.

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1970

Chairman:
Councillor Dr. J. M. Salmon

Vice-Chairman:
Councillor Mr. G. R. J. Matthews (The Mayor)

Alderman Mr. A. V. Horton
,, Mr. R. Keene
Councillor Mr. R. Carter
,, Mr. T. C. Chipperfield
,, Mr. J. A. Corbett
,, Mr. S. C. Ellis
,, Mr. H. Hodgson
,, Mrs. J. Humphery

Councillor Mr. P. D. Hunt
,, Mr. A. W. Long
,, Mr. F. A. Long
,, Mrs. M. Reynolds
,, Mr. A. C. Shepherd
,, Mrs. J. M. Thomassen
,, Dr. P. H. Tribe

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and Borough School Medical Officer:
Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Port Health Inspector:
H. Cormack, CERT.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Deputy Port Health Inspector:
F. G. S. Hill, CERT.S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:
K. G. Adams, CERT.S.I.B.
J. C. Bench, D.I.P., P.H.I.E.B.
J. R. Fisher, CERT.S.I.B.
J. H. Dean (*trainee*)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area 4,796 acres (Census 1961).

Area (including foreshore): 5,640 acres.

Population: 45,730 (Census, 1961).
50,900 (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate).

Number of private households: 15,319 (Census, 1961).

Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 31st March, 1971: 18,484.

Rateable value at 31st December, 1970: £2,092,864.

Sum represented by a penny rate 1970/71: £8,500 (estimated).

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

	LOWESTOFT					*England and Wales rates*
	Total	*Male*	*Female*	*Crude rate*	*Adjusted rate*	
Live births—						
legitimate	707	361	346	—	—	—
illegitimate	48	22	26	—	—	—
total	755	383	372	—	—	—
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	—	—	—	14·8	15·5	16·0
Stillbirths—						
legitimate	11	4	7	—	—	—
illegitimate	2	2	—	—	—	—
total	13	6	7	—	—	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	—	—	—	17·0	15·0	13·0
Total live and stillbirths	768	389	379	—	—	—
Infant deaths— under one year—						
legitimate	13	6	7	—	—	—
illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
total	13	6	7	—	—	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 livebirths	—	—	—	17·0	15·0	18·0

	LOWESTOFT					England and Wales rates
	Total	*Male*	*Female*	*Crude rate*	*Adjusted rate*	
Infant mortality rate (legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate livebirths)	—	—	—	18·0	15·8	17·0
Infant mortality rate (illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate livebirths)	—	—	—	—	—	26·0
Infant deaths—under four weeks						
legitimate	9	4	5	—	—	—
illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
total	9	4	5	—	—	—
Neo-natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 livebirths	—	—	—	12·0	10·5	12·0
Infant deaths—under one week—						
legitimate	9	4	5	—	—	—
illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—
total	9	4	5	—	—	—
Early neo-natal (under one week) mortality rate per 1,000 livebirths	—	—	—	12·0	10·5	11·0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)	—	—	—	29·0	25·5	23·0
Maternal deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births......	—	—	—	—	—	0·18
Deaths from all causes	649	365	284	—	—	—
Death rate per 1,000 population	—	—	—	12·8	11·3	11·7

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	—	1
Syphilis and its sequelae	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm—buccal cavity, etc.......	3	2	1
,, ,, —prostate	6	6	—
,, ,, —intestine......	23	16	7
,, ,, —larynx	2	2	—
,, ,, —stomach......	9	4	5
,, ,, —lung, bronchus	42	36	6
,, ,, —breast	11	—	11
,, ,, —uterus	4	—	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	—	1
Leukaemia	4	1	3
Other Malignant neoplasms, etc.	32	20	12
Diabetes mellitus	6	3	3
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	2	1	1
Mental disorders	2	1	1
Multiple sclerosis	2	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	4	2	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	8	2	6
Hypertensive disease	7	6	1
Ischaemic heart disease	156	100	56
Other forms of heart disease	33	9	24
Cerebrovascular disease	80	36	44
Other diseases of circulatory system	45	26	19
Influenza	13	6	7
Pneumonia	54	30	24
Bronchitis and emphysema	24	21	3
Asthma	3	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2	1
Peptic ulcer	5	3	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	5	—	5
Cirrhosis of liver	1	—	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	1	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	6	2	4
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	—	2
Congenital anomalies	7	4	3
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	3	2	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	4	—	4
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	10	5	5
Motor vehicle accidents	4	4	—
All other accidents	11	4	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	5	4	1
	649	365	284

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year (1969 figures shown bracketed):—

Scarlet Fever	8	(43)
Whooping Cough	12	(25)
Measles	554	(80)
Food Poisoning (Salmonella)......	1	(1)
Infective Hepatitis	3	(3)
Encephalitis	—	(1)
Tetanus	1	(—)

TUBERCULOSIS

Summary of Tuberculosis Register, 1970

	Males		*Females*		
	Pul-monary	*Non-Pul-monary*	*Pul-monary*	*Non-Pul-monary*	*Total*
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1969	119	19	89	13	240
Number of cases added during the year	4	—	—	—	4
Number of cases removed during the year	15	3	5	—	23
Number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1970	108	16	84	13	221

Cases Added to the Register

New notifications	4
Inward Transfers	—
	4

Cases Removed from the Register

Recovered	15
Died	2
Removed to other areas	6
	23

Tuberculosis patients and their families remain under the supervision of Dr. I. M. Young, Consultant Chest Physician, to whom Miss Stiles, one of the County Council's health visitors is attached for domiciliary visiting of the households.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following categories of staff were medically examined during the year for the Borough, the County Council and other local authorities:—

Teachers for appointment or for admission to training colleges	107
Local government employees for entry into superannuation and sick pay schemes, or on retirement	10
School Meals Canteen employees	26
Local Government employees staff medical enquiry forms reviewed	42

HOME HELP SERVICE

	Number of Cases dealt with
Maternity	54
Chronic sick, aged and infirm	706

Number of Home Helps working at 31st December, 1970—235

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

The quantity of the various items issued was as follows (1969 figures bracketed):—

National Dried Milk, full cream, tins	2,046	(3,034)
National Dried Milk, half cream, tins	—	(—)
Orange Juice, bottles	13,178	(11,422)
Cod Liver Oil, bottles	1,097	(1,125)
Vitamin A and D, packets......	276	(1,302)

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVERS FOR 1970

	Sun		Rain (inches)		Average Daily Temperature (deg. F)		1970 (deg. F)				
	1970	*Normal 1921-50 hrs.*	*1970*	*Normal 1916-50 ins.*	*1970*	*Normal 1921-50*	*Highest Max.*	*Lowest Min.*	*Lowest Max.*	*Highest Min.*	*Lowest Grass Min.*
January	19·5	56·0	1·89	2·22	38·1	38·9	51	23	34	41	19
February	95·1	75·0	2·57	1·54	37·3	39·3	52	23	36	41	19
March	112·4	136·0	1·54	1·32	39·1	42·1	59	25	36	41	20
April	125·3	165·0	2·30	1·67	43·7	46·6	62	27	42	50	26
May	198·9	211·0	1·05	1·49	52·9	51·5	70	41	50	52	33
June	285·1	212·0	0·40	1·60	59·2	57·5	75	45	58	57	40
July	181·6	214·0	1·54	2·31	60·6	61·6	81	46	60	62	43
August	205·8	195·0	1·00	2·14	61·3	61·7	73	49	62	61	46
September	159·1	156·0	1·84	2·09	59·5	58·4	78	44	59	63	42
October	113·9	117·0	1·32	2·32	53·0	51·7	69	38	48	56	36
November	67·0	62·0	5·35	2·72	48·8	44·6	61	29	44	51	27
December	41·4	51·0	1·68	2·19	40·7	40·0	53	29	33	46	27
	1605·1	1650·0	22·48	23·61							

Highest Maximum 81 degrees F. on 13th July

Lowest Minimum 23 degrees F. on 4th January and 17th February

Greatest rainfall in a day—1·52 ins. on 14th November

Date of last frost of Spring—29th April

Sunshine—Sun hours were below yearly normal by 44·9 hrs.

Lowest Maximum 33 degrees F. on 26th December

Highest Minimum 63 degrees F. on 8th September

Date of first frost of Autumn—16th November

Rainfall—Rainfall was below the yearly normal by 1·13 ins.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied to the whole of the town by the East Anglian Water Company and I am indebted to the General Manager, J. M. Boon, Esq., F.C.I.S., F.I.A.C., for the following information.

The supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. Bacteriological examinations are made of the raw water at monthly intervals. The water leaving the treatment works at Lound is examined at fortnightly intervals and water supplied to the consumer is examined at weekly intervals. Monthly samples are taken in Lowestoft and submitted for full chemical analysis. The fluoride content of the water has changed very little between 0·1 and 0·2 parts per million.

The water supply does not have plumbo solvent action which could be injurious to health.

No cases of contamination of the water distributed to the public have arisen during the year.

There are no standpipes in use in the borough.

A copy of the report on a water sample taken on the 28th September, 1970, is reproduced below.

Chemical Results in Milligrams Per Litre (ppm)

Appearance	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	3
pH	7·6
Electric Conductivity	640
Chlorine present as Chloride	60
Hardness: Total	310 { Carbonate 180 Non-carbonate 130
Nitrate Nitrogen	2·1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·07
Metals	Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead—Absent
Turbidity	Nil
Odour	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	8
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C.	440
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	180
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed	0·90
Residual Chlorine	0·03

Bacteriological

Number of colonies developing on Agar

1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20-22°C.
0 per million	0 per million	1 per million

	Present in	*Absent from*	*Most probable No.*
Presumptive Coliform reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of satisfactory organic quality and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The following report on Drainage, Sewerage, Public Cleansing and Street Cleansing has been kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, D. J. E. Hone, Esq., B.Sc. (ENG.), A.M.I.C.E., who is responsible for these services.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work on Phases I and II of the Main Drainage Scheme (for which the Consulting Engineers are Messrs. J. D. & D. M. Watson of Westminster) was completed during 1970.

Work on Phase IIIA of the Main Drainage Scheme, dealing with the Gunton (north Lowestoft) area of the Borough was substantially completed during the year. The commissioning of the Pleasurewood Hill Pumping Station, which is expected early in 1971, will then put most of the town on to a satisfactory main drainage system.

Work on Phase IIIB of the Scheme to provide a new sea outfall continued with good progress being maintained by the Contractors, Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd. It is anticipated that the tunnel outfall will be completed in May, 1971, and this will then complete the Main Drainage Scheme as planned.

All pumping stations within the Borough continue to function satisfactorily and flooding in the town has been drastically reduced.

An examination of the existing town centre sewer system is now being planned in the course of general maintenance.

Trade Effluent Agreements with the four major food processing firms in the town are being negotiated, and it is hoped that in the near future all the major trade effluents will be fully controlled.

Schemes envisaged for 1971 include a comprehensive TV survey for the sewerage system in the older parts of the town in order to evaluate the amount of repair or replacement required; further works on the

Beach Area and South Lowestoft Industrial Estates: and other small drainage schemes constantly being dealt with in connection with new developments in the town.

Public Cleansing

Pail closets emptied by Corporation	31
Cesspools emptied by Corporation	184
Refuse disposal by controlled tipping	19,600 tons
Approximate number of premises from which refuse is collected (excluding summer caravans)	21,200

Labour for refuse collection:
- Thirty loaders
- Six drivers (full-time)
- One driver (two days per week)

Refuse collection vehicles:
- Four Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic vehicles
- Two Dennis Pakamatic vehicles
- Two Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tippers (one summer use, one spare)
- One Bedford side loader with night soil trailer (two days per week)

It is proposed to operate a bonus incentive scheme in 1971, which will have the effect of reducing the number of men engaged on refuse collection.

Labour at disposal tips:
- One ganger
- One driver operating Weatherill Mechanical Shovel.

During the winter months controlled tipping of refuse took place on the Denes, and during the summer tipping was carried out on two days of the week at Tusting's Pit, off Monckton Avenue, and on three days of the week at Mrs. Harrison's pit in Arbor Lane.

The recent building of a new Works Depot has offered a great improvement in the storage, garaging and maintenance facilities for transport plant and equipment.

Street Cleansing

A labour force of twenty-one was used in the summer and this was reduced to nineteen during the winter when the service along the Esplanade is not so demanding in labour. Two orderlies work with the driver of the manulectric truck in the town centre whilst the remainder of the orderlies operate individually and the sweepings are collected by a lorry for disposal. Road gulleys are cleansed by means of a gully emptying machine approximately three times per year.

Approximately 300 litter bins are emptied.

A Johnson suction sweeper with dual controls is used for sweeping carriageways where manual sweeping is limited or uneconomic, e.g., the outskirts of the town. It is also used in the Town Centre very early in the morning to avoid the traffic problems.

Delivery was taken during the year of a second Atkinson gritter which represents another stage in replacing obsolete frost gritters with modern machines, as it is becoming increasingly obvious that a higher standard of snow clearance and gritting is now being demanded by the motoring public. It will also be necessary to increase the plant to deal with clearing snow from footpaths and a motorised footpath plough-gritter to augment the four manually propelled footpath gritters has been ordered. It is hoped to provide for additional gritters in the 1971 estimates.

The new Depot includes a separate 'Winter Maintenance' section which has a covered area capable of storing about 1,000 tons of salt and/or grit, and a garage where all 'Winter Maintenance' equipment is kept in a state of readiness.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

During the year complaints were received of noise nuisances caused by amplification of music, noisy refrigeration motors and trade processes. The investigation of such complaints generally takes place out of normal office hours and is demanding on time and patience. It was necessary in one case to serve a notice under the Public Health Act to secure abatement of a nuisance caused by the amplification of music played by a 'Pop Group' on licensed premises. Complaints were received from residents some 150 yards away from the licensed premises. Sound level readings taken in the bar ranged between 90 and 110 decibels. The most dominant feature of the noise and the one which caused most disturbance to the neighbours was a rhythmic thumping caused by the playing of a bass guitar. The Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor Dr. J. M. Salmon, requested that a report be prepared on the problems of noise nuisance and in particular those caused by pop groups, as it is thought that loud pop music as played in discotheques could, over a long period, damage the hearing of the young people who listen to it. The report was accorded ample publicity in the 'Press' and on Radio and TV. Noise is generally described as unwanted sound, so what is musical entertainment to one person can become a noise nuisance to another. We have to try and strike a balance between interfering with a person's enjoyment of loud music and protecting the occupants of adjoining properties from the unwanted intrusion of noise which can interfere with sleep, recreation and communication.

During the year 281 grants were made for the improvement of houses and every house was inspected in co-operation with a member of the Borough Engineer's staff. The system has worked very well but at times to the detriment of the routine work of the department. Nevertheless this is most rewarding work and houses which in a few years time might have been considered incapable of repair have now been repaired and modernised and will provide good dwelling houses for many more years.

Early in the year a complaint was received regarding the sale of a mouldy fruit pie and I considered it necessary to investigate the sale and display of pies and flour confectionery. Certain nationally known companies have a regular delivery to shops and supermarkets and it was found that prepacked goods bore code numbers stamped on the packet. This code indicated the date by which the product should be sold. Although manufacturers invoices stated ‘Stock rotation is your own responsibility and a member of your staff should be assigned to the task of carrying out a daily check’ it was found that most retailers left the stocking of confectionery displays to the bakery salesmen. These men work on a commission basis and there is a temptation to overstock. Our investigations proved that stock rotation was not being carried out and despite confectionery companies instructions to the contrary, sale or return was being carried out by some salesmen. Letters were sent to all food traders in the Borough pointing out that it was an offence under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, to sell foodstuffs affected by mould growths and advising them of their responsibility to ensure proper supervision and control of stock. They were also advised to obtain code cards from all their suppliers of products having a limited shelf life. Having taken the trouble to bring these matters to the attention of traders it is disappointing to find that in some cases the advice has been ignored and it has been necessary to take legal proceedings for the sale of mouldy food. Stock rotation is simply ‘Good housekeeping’ and should be as routine as opening and closing the shop.

HOUSING

A clearance area comprising seven houses numbered 1 to 7 Rant Score was dealt with during the year and as there were objections to the making of a Clearance Order an Inquiry was held at the end of the year. The Minister’s decision has not yet been received. Two further areas were surveyed for possible clearance and acquisition of the sites and formal action will be taken on these areas in 1971.

Details of housing work carried out during the year are tabulated below.

Statistics

Houses built by private enterprise during 1970	255
Houses built by the Council during 1970	63
Standard Grants given for house improvements	84
Improvement Grants given for house improvements	197
Houses made fit for human habitation:	
(*a*) After informal action	41
(*b*) After formal action under Public Health Act	5
(*c*) After formal action under Housing Acts	2
Families rehoused from unfit houses	10
Condemned houses demolished	4
Closing Orders and Undertakings on unfit houses	19
Closing Orders revoked after houses made fit	1
Inspections of houses under the Public Health Acts	212
Inspections of houses under the Housing Acts	664
Revisits to houses under the Public Health Acts	361
Revisits to houses under the Housing Acts	579

VISITS CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

Accumulations	127
Animals	17
Caravans	43
Camping Sites	37
Controlled Tips	47
Dirty Houses	25
Dirty Persons	10
Drainage	827
Drain Tests	39
Factories (Mechanical Power)	86
Factories (Non-Mechanical Power)	8
Noise Complaints	154
Offensive Smells	90
Pigeons	205
Dust and Smoke	139
Verminous Premises	33

NOTICES SERVED

Informal	60	Complied with	65
Statutory (P.H.A.2, H.A.3)	5	Complied with (P.H.A.11, H.A.2, this includes compliance with notices served in 1969)	13

SWIMMING BATHS

Eight collapsible plastic sheeted baths and eleven permanent baths were used for instructional and public recreational purposes during the summer. They varied in size between the small portable baths at infant schools to full-size public baths. All were uncovered.

Eighteen samples of bath water were obtained for laboratory examination and all were reported to be satisfactory. In addition, the Inspectors regularly checked up on methods of chlorine dosing, and made spot checks of chlorine availability and pH value whilst swimming was going on.

It was considered essential to recommend the Education Department to obtain mechanical suction apparatus to facilitate the bottom cleansing of two school baths. Elsewhere, temporary difficulties in the supply of liquid chlorine to schools and in the use of a water filter were overcome.

RODENT CONTROL

1,030 complaints of rat and mouse infestations were recorded during the year, and 2,076 inspections were carried out at infested and adjoining properties. Treatments were carried out at 1,247 premises infested with rats and 674 premises infested by mice. Three treatments of the sewers were carried out and the level of infestation was very minor. It is again a pleasure to record my appreciation of the conscientious and efficient manner in which the rodent control work has been carried out by the two rodent operators, Mr. G. Ansdell and Mr. W. J. Bruce.

CAMPING SITES

Outline planning permission was granted for the extension of the Council site at North Denes but no physical change to the site took place during 1970. All other sites were inspected during the season and facilities were found to be satisfactorily maintained.

A small number of itinerant caravans stayed for short periods on the North Denes but these were not allowed to settle down for a prolonged stay for the reason that no site facilities are provided for itinerants.

There are licensed sites in the Borough for 484 holiday and 96 permanent caravans.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

Visits made in connection with the following:

Eradication of wasps nests	269
Eradication of ants, earwigs, cockroaches, etc.	79
Fumigation of houses, etc.	22
Bedding destroyed	1 lot
Bedding disinfected	7 lots
Pigeon trapping	205

Large numbers of earwigs appeared in one part of the town causing annoyance to the residents by gaining access to houses at nightfall. Special residual insecticide was obtained and the staff sprayed the exterior walls of houses badly affected as well as areas of the footpaths and lamp standards. This provided some protection and relief from this insect nuisance.

125 Feral pigeons were trapped in the town centre.

FOOD HYGIENE AND FOOD INSPECTION

Many requests from grocers were received for the inspection of frozen foodstuffs following the breakdown of refrigerators. In all cases the entire stock of frozen food was looked at so as to identify those articles which were still in frost and therefore fit for sale. The remaining soft packs or refrozen packs were accepted for surrender and disposed of on the Council Tip.

All food establishments in the town were circulated with information about the need for exercising care in stocking and selling prepacked perishable food which is 'life' coded by manufacturers. Proprietors of businesses were informed as to their reponsibilities in this matter with particular reference to the rotation of stock and the care needed to prevent foodstuffs going stale and mouldy, or exceeding their life coding date before sale. One has good reasons to believe that this reminder was accepted and acted upon by many proprietors. However, there continued to be cases reported to me of mouldy, outdated, perishable foodstuffs having been sold, and in two instances the Health Committee authorised prosecutions against retailing grocers. In both cases the magistrates imposed fines of £50. The Council then requested the Association of Municipal Corporations to consider the desirability of requesting the food trade to introduce a system of date stamping which is intelligible to the consumer, but the A.M.C. after considering the request, declined to make a positive recommendation. It appears to me that date stamping by means of codes affords protection to the manufacturers and not to the consumers.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES AND INSPECTIONS MADE

Type of food premises	*Number*	*Inspections*
Bakery Depots	1	—
Bakehouses	10	34
Butcher's Shops	53	101
Cafes and Restaurants	67	145
Canteens	31	22
Confectioner's Shops (inc. Sweetshops)	63	23
Cold Stores	6	12
Food Factories	16	53
Fish Curers	7	10
Fishmonger's Shops	10	7
Fried Fish Shops	30	28
Greengrocer's Shops	27	26
Grocer's Shops and Warehouses	153	214
Holiday Camps	1	1
Hotels and Licensed Premises	126	61

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

151 visits were made to inspect food.

Major condemnations of unsound food were as follows:

Bulgarian Tinned Beans	265 cases
White Beans	35 × 100 lbs. sacks
Dried Vegetables	4 cwts.
Fish	1,034 stones
Canned Fruit	2,249 cans
Canned Meat	911 cans
Canned Fish	320 cans
Canned Tomatoes	396 cans
Canned Vegetables	1,506 cans
Frozen Meat	82¾ cwts.
Frozen Vegetables	276 lbs.
Frozen Poultry	1 ton and 56 lbs.

Plus smaller amounts of grocery trade products.

Condemned fish was sent to a fish meal factory, meat and poultry to a meat and bone meal works, and the remaining articles were buried in the Council Tips.

MILK

Bacteriological Sampling

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	U.H.T.
Samples tested	75	3	2
Satisfactory results	75	3	2

These figures show that all samples had been satisfactorily heat treated. Five samples of School milk (pasteurised) were tested and found to be satisfactory.

No Untreated milk was sold in the Borough to my knowledge, the raw milk from farms all going to pasteurising dairies.

One prosecution was undertaken against a dairy for selling a bottle of milk containing dead spiders. A fine of £50 was imposed by the magistrates' court.

Compositional Sampling

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	U.H.T.
Samples tested	75	3	2
Satisfactory results	75	3	2

These figures show that all samples contained more than the legal minimum amounts of milk fat and solids other than fat.

Biological Sampling

Samples of milk from the five dairy herds in the Borough area were tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus, Brucella Abortus and Penicillin Residues. All results were negative.

ICE CREAM

Samples tested	17
Satisfactory results	14

The three unsatisfactory samples were of loose ice cream prepared from pasteurised cold mix ingredients. It was decided that in each case there had been inadequate sterilisation of mixing and freezing utensils at the retailer's premises, and the retailers concerned were advised to give more attention to their sterilisation routines. Follow up samples were satisfactory.

Twenty-eight visits were made to premises for the purpose of checking conditions associated with the sale of ice cream.

FOOD SAMPLES

Number submitted to the Public Analyst	140
Satisfactory results	132

Reasons for unsatisfactory reports by the Analyst:

Misleading descriptions on label of product	2
Incorrect descriptions on label of product	6

In three cases it was decided that the comments of the Analyst were not sufficiently strongly based in law to warrant further action; and in four cases the manufacturers agreed to alter the labels on future similar products. The remaining one sample was duplicated by Norfolk County Council and further action in pursuit of the adverse report was left to that authority.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	*Number of premises newly registered during the year*	*Total number of registered premises at end of year*	*Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year*
Offices	7	140	19
Retail Shops	8	315	91
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	23	9
Catering establishments open to the public, Canteens	4	53	22
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	2
Totals	20	533	143

Number of Visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered Premises—372

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of workplace	*Number of persons employed*
Offices	1416
Retail Shops	1693
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	207
Catering establishments open to the public	445
Canteens	22
Fuel Storage Depots	11
Total	3794
Total Males	1759
Total Females	2035

PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in the year		
Section of Act or title of Regulations or Order	*Number of informations laid*	*Number of informations leading to a conviction*
—	—	—

Number of persons or companies prosecuted—Nil.

Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under section 22—Nil.

Number of interim orders granted—Nil.

STAFF

Number of inspectors appointed under section 52(1) or (5) of the Act—5.

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act—Nil.

CONTRAVENTIONS

Unsatisfactory Conditions Found and Remedied during 1970

Contravention	*No. of premises affected*	*No. of premises where contravention has been remedied*
Absence of Abstract	10	6
Unsatisfactory Cleanliness	9	11
Overcrowding	—	—
Insufficient Heating	8	5
Absence of Thermometer	8	6
Inadequate Ventilation	5	2
Insufficient Lighting	—	—
Defective Floors	9	12
Dangerous Openings	—	—
Seats Required (Shops)	1	1
,, ,, (Offices)	—	—
Footrests Required	—	—
Machinery in need of Guarding	3	2
Stairs and Passages :		
(*a*) Defective Condition	1	2
(*b*) Handrails required	2	—
(*c*) Insufficient Lighting	1	—
First Aid Boxes Required	6	4
Absence of Drinking Water	4	2
Clothing Accommodation Required	1	1
Washing Facilities :		
(*a*) Insufficient	2	3
(*b*) Defective Condition	6	7
(*c*) Insufficient Lighting	3	2
(*d*) Absence of H. and C. Water	3	4
(*e*) Absence of Soap and Towels	4	5
Sanitary Conveniences :		
(*a*) Insufficient	1	1
(*b*) Insufficient Lighting	4	4
(*c*) Insufficient Ventilation	2	1
(*d*) Defective Condition	6	7
Disposal of Sanitary Dressings	—	—

These contraventions were in respect of 38 premises.

Contraventions were remedied in full in respect of 41 premises.

ACCIDENTS

Six accidents were reported during the year, brief details of these are as follows:

1. Male—Crushed a finger whilst off-loading goods from a van to a barrow.
2. Male—Struck on head by a door of a refrigerated vehicle, the door being blown back during gale force winds.
3. Male—Slipped between a lorry and a loading platform and bruised his back.
4. Female—Tripped whilst walking downstairs and sprained an ankle.
5. Male—Strained his back whilst lifting a side of bacon.
6. Male—Trapped his left hand between a lift and the lift shaft wall, whilst lift was travelling from first floor to ground floor and had to be released by the Fire Brigade Special Services Unit. The injured person, a 17-year-old trainee waiter, is a tall, thin youth. It appeared that he entered the lift and pressed the button to go down to the ground floor. He was apparently leaning with his left hand against the lift door and as the lift descended he allowed his hand to remain in roughly the same position so that his fingers were caught between the front wall of the lift shaft and the top front of the lift cage. As the lift descended further more of his hand was pulled into the trap until he was held by the wrist. The maximum recess in the shaft was $\frac{1}{4}''$ and the distance between the lift cage and the shaft wall in front of the lift varied from $\frac{1}{8}''$ to $\frac{3}{4}''$. The lift was installed in 1965 and is of a type described in Exemption No. 7 of the Hoists and Lifts Regulations, 1968. An inspector from the H.M. Inspector of Factories carried out an inspection at my request and as a result of his suggestions the front wall of the lift shaft is to be lined with Formica and a rubber felt strip is to be fitted at the top front of the lift cage and in contact with the lift shaft so as to form a semi-rigid barrier thus preventing a possibility of a repetition of this accident.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

There have been no difficulties in the enforcement of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, and Regulations made thereunder. In all cases where inspections have revealed contraventions of the Act an informal approach has resulted in compliance with the Act.

In dealing with the Hoists and Lifts Regulations it has been found that the Insurance Companies are prompt in forwarding copies of their reports to the local authority, and apart from the accident mentioned earlier in my report no difficulties have been experienced.

FACTORIES ACT

ANNUAL REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	*Number on register*	*Inspections*	*Number of*	
			Written notices	*Occupiers prosecuted*
(*i*) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities......	8	5	3	—
(*ii*) Factories not included in (*i*) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	244	86	8	—
(*iii*) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	3	—	—
Total	263	94	11	—

FACTORIES ACT

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	*Number of cases in which defects were found*				*Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted*
			Referred		
	Found	*Remedied*	*to H.M. I.F.*	*by H.M. I.F.*	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(*b*) unsuitable or defective	19	17	—	—	—
(*c*) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	1	—	—
Total	24	23	1	1	—

FACTORIES ACT

Part VIII of the Act

Nature of Work	*Section 133*			*Section 134*		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	*No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council*	*No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists*	*No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises*	*Notices served*	*Pro-secutions*
Carding, etc. of Buttons	34	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel making, etc.	23	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	53	—	—	—	—	—
Total	110	—	—	—	—	—

LOWESTOFT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1970

Port Medical Officer of Health: Dr. A. C. Gee
Chief Port Health Inspector: H. Cormack
Deputy Port Health Inspector: F. G. S. Hill

CHARACTER OF PORT

The outer harbour consists of the Waveney Dock, Hamilton Dock, and Trawl Dock and the inner harbour is formed by Lake Lothing from the Bridge to Mutford Lock.

The outer harbour is used for the landing of white fish and herrings and for the fuelling and icing of the fishing fleet. The inner harbour is used for ship building, repairs and servicing of shipping and general commercial use.

Improvements were carried out to the roadway behind the Fish Market during the year and the contractors commenced work on a new bridge to replace the Swing Bridge.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The Port Medical Officer is frequently asked for medical advice regarding injured or sick seamen aboard vessels making for the port. Details of these cases come to the shipping agents concerned, by radio telephone.

Foreign seamen are seen by the Port Medical Officer and either sent to hospital or the master of the vessel given instructions regarding suitable treatment. Seamen on local boats, who live in the district are referred to their own family doctors.

The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen has a modern hostel for fishermen in the town, to which a local general practitioner is attached for any medical services that may be required.

WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied throughout the docks, metered supplies are provided to every office and fish merchants stands. Additional supply points are provided for the watering of trawlers and for the cleansing of the fish market.

MARKET CLEANSING

The fish markets are hosed down daily using mains water and this work has been efficiently carried out all through the year by the employees of the Docks Board.

FISH LANDINGS FOR THE YEAR

1,899 landings were made by trawlers during the year. Five trawlers joined the fleet from other ports. Twelve trawlers left the port and of these four were sold for breaking up.

The quantities and values of fish landed during 1970 are as follows:

	Cwts.	*Value (£s)*
Brill	250	3,576
Catfish	1,946	7,382
Cod	81,948	452,534
Conger Eels	2	9
Dabs	2,560	12,615
Dogfish	15,008	63,758
Gurnards	2,121	5,248
Haddock	32,939	129,181
Hake	614	7,213
Halibut	37	774
Lemon Soles	4,638	79,282
Ling	787	1,828
Mackerel (Trawl)	23	150
Monkfish	536	3,838
Plaice	380,431	2,640,889
Pollock	136	511
Roes	276	1,947
Saithe	617	1,417
Skates/Rays	5,316	27,063
Soles	3,549	144,273
Turbot	11,702	253,365
Whiting	1,765	5,413
Witches	199	1,311
All others	576	2,232
	547,976	£3,845,809

IMPORTED FOOD

Regular importations of canned meat, canned cream, frozen meat and offal were received at the shipping company warehouse and were inspected prior to release for distribution to inland storage depots.

INSPECTIONS

1,498 inspections of trawlers were made during the year in connection with the sanitary conditions aboard ship, water supply, and the cleanliness of fish rooms.

The attention of the owners was drawn to the following matters:

Unsatisfactory cleanliness of fish holds	117
Galleys and cabins in need of cleansing and painting	8
Water tanks in need of cleansing	17
W.C. pans requiring renewal	2
Dirty bedding	18
Food lockers requiring cleansing and painting	35

As in previous years the owners gave instructions for these conditions to be remedied immediately after notification.

FISH INSPECTION

All white fish landed was inspected daily before the commencement of the fish auction sales. The general quality of fish was excellent and there were very few occasions when condemnations of fish took place.

RODENT CONTROL

233 inspections were made in connection with the issue of certificates under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1956.

VERMIN

Crew accommodation was disinfested for the following causes:

Lice	5
Scabies	1
Fleas	1

CONCLUSION

It is once again our pleasure to place on record our appreciation of the ready and willing co-operation which has at all times been accorded to the Public Health Department by the Docks Manager and his staff, the District Fisheries Officer, H.M. Customs and Excise Officers, and the various sections of the fishing industry.

TABLE A.

SECTION I—STAFF

Name of officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
Arthur C. Gee	Port Medical Officer of Health	1.1.49	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Area Medical Officer of Health E.S.C.C.
H. Cormack	Chief Port Health Inspector	6.9.52	Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.	Chief Public Health Inspector
F. G. S. Hill	Deputy Port Health Inspector	3.1.55	Cert. S.I.B.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health	Public Health Department, Clapham Road, Lowestoft. Telephone No. : Lowestoft 2171.

TABLE B.

SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

Ships from :	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspectors	
Foreign Ports	869	139,578	Nil	27	Nil
Coastwise	346	76,408	Nil	2	Nil
Total	1,215	215,986	Nil	29	Nil

TABLE B. SECTION II.

BRITISH FISHING VESSELS—Number of Landings by British Fishing Vessels made in the Port during the year.

	Landings	*Approx. Tonnage*	*Inspections*
Trawlers :	1,899	27,709	1,498

TABLE C.

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

Passenger Traffic : Number of Passengers INWARDS—Nil
Number of Passengers OUTWARDS—Nil

Principal IMPORTS—Cereal, Vegetables, Timber, Oil Spirit, Roadstone, Canned Meats, Chilled Meats, Mineral Fibre, Fertiliser, Various Chemicals, Dairy Produce, Frozen Fish, Steel Tubes, Chipboard.

Principal EXPORTS—Various Chemicals, Steel Tubes, Agricultural Machinery, Sheep and Cattle.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:

HOLLAND—Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Scheveningen
RUSSIA —Leningrad
SWEDEN —Gelfe, Norsundet, Hudiksval, Stutskar, Norrkoping, Tunadal, Skogal
FINLAND —Mantyluoto, Hamina, Pateniemi
POLAND —Gdansk
BRAZIL —Itajia
CYPRUS —Limassol
BELGIUM —Antwerp, Ostend
DENMARK—Eszberg
GERMANY—Bremerhaven, Kiel, Hamburg, Beidenfleth

SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

Numbers and Tonnage using the district and places served by the traffic—Nil

SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

1. Water supply by East Anglian Water Company throughout the Port Area.
   Fresh water hydrants are fitted in the fishing dock area and on the North Quay.
2. Tests are carried out at regular intervals by the East Anglian Water Company. All reports are satisfactory.
3. All hydrants for the supply of fresh water are boxed in and hosepipes and connections are cleansed and chlorinated before the filling of ships water tanks.
4. Nil.

SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

1. List supplied to Port Medical Officer of Health and Chief and Deputy Chief Port Health Inspectors.
   Passed to Waterguard Office, when list is prepared and amended accordingly.
2. (*a*) Arrangements made with Coastguard to contact Humber Radio for outgoing messages.
   (*b*) Incoming messages, Humber Radio contacts Medical Officer direct via Coastguard by telephone.
3. Notified to Medical Officer of Health by Waterguard immediately upon receipt.
4. Lowestoft Roads and Dolphin in inner harbour south of Richards Wharf.
5. (*a*) Arrangements made with Yarmouth Isolation Hospital.
   (*b*) Surveillance and follow up of contacts carried out by Port Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors.
   (*c*) Authority employs a cleansing man with vehicle for disinfection of ships, etc. Clothing and other articles steam disinfected by local authority. Persons can be cleansed at the Health Department Clinic.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

1. Cases may be sent either to Ipswich or Yarmouth Isolation Hospitals and also Norwich Hospital.
2. Arrangements made by East Suffolk County Council ambulance service who are also responsible for vaccinal state of ambulance crews.
3. Dr. A. G. SMITH, 24 Unthank Road, Norwich. Dr. W. A. OLIVER, M.B.E., Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Dr. R. A. LEADER, Elm Street, Ipswich.
4. Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

Clinics at the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital.

Clinics open: TUESDAYS—5.30 to 7.00 p.m.
FRIDAYS—9.30 to 11.00 a.m.

Beds provided for in-patient treatment.

Posters for Public Conveniences.

TABLE D.

SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

Category	*Disease*	*Number of cases during the year*		*Number of ships concerned*
		Passengers	*Crew*	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships......	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No occurrence of this disease

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No occurrence of this disease

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

1. Ships inspected on arrival. Deratisation certificates checked.
2. No foreign ships found to be infested with rats. Specimens for examination would be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.
3. Not an approved Port.
4. No action taken.

TABLE E.

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Nil—Not an approved Port

TABLE F. DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Nil—Not an approved Port

TABLE G. SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCE. INSPECTION AND NOTICES

Nature of inspection	*Number inspected*	*Notices served*		*Result of serving notices*
		Statutory notices	*Other notices*	
Foreign Shipping	27	Nil	1	These concerned:— Deratisation certificate out of date (1) Instructions given to renew deratisation exemption certificates at an approved port.
Coastwise Shipping	2	Nil	Nil	
British Fishing Vessels	1,498	Nil	76	These concerned:— Dirty galleys (8) Dirty bedding (18) Defective W.C.s (2) Water tanks needing cleansing (17) Food Lockers requiring cleansing and painting (35) All the notices were complied with.

SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

Nil

SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS (APPLICABLE TO PORTS APPROVED FOR LANDING ALIENS)

Not an approved Port

SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS (ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE).

No specific arrangements made but in such a contingency arrangements would be made for burial by a local undertaker under the direct supervision of the Port Medical Officer of Health.

Flood & Son, Ltd., The Borough Press, Lowestoft